

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 IO-14 AID-20 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 OMB-01

PC-04 INRE-00 /124 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2298

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 1

REF: GUATEMALA 1183

1. ELECTION HELD TODAY WITHOUT ANY REPORTED DISTURBANCES. IN GUATEMALA CITY, VOTING CROWDS AT POLLING PLACES WERE ORDERLY AND QUIET. TURNOUT APPEARED LARGE WITH MANY POLLING PLACES REMAINING OPEN BEYOND NORMAL 1800 HOURS CLOSING TIME.

2. AT 1800 HOURS, GOG INCORPORATED ALL RADIO STATIONS INTO NATIONAL NET AND IMMEDIATELY SUBSTITUTED NORMAL PROGRAMMING FOR MARIMBA MUSIC AND OCCASIONAL BULLETINS DECLARING GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO SUPPLY PUBLIC WITH "FULL, TRUE" RESULTS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE AND WARN CITIZENS NOT BE MISLEAD BY "COARSE MANEUVER" OF "OPPOSITION PARTY" WHICH ALLEGEDLY BEGAN TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN AT 1800 HOURS ANNOUNCING VICTORY FOR ITS CANDIDATE. TELEVISION PROGRAMMING CONSISTS OF OLD MOVIES AND VARIETY SHOW INTERSPERSED WITH OCCASIONAL VOTING RESULTS.

3. MARIMBA MUSIC, WHICH IS NOW GETTING A LITTLE TIRING, HAS GIVEN WAY TO FEW ELECTIONS RETURNS. THUSFAR, PARTIAL RETURNS, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER 8000 VOTES(AS OF 0030 HOURS), ARE
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A MIXTURE DRAWN FROM COALITION STRONGHOLDS, SUCH AS ZACAPA, AND

FROM THE CAPITAL. THEY SHOW LAUGERUD WITH 3553, RIOS 3154, AND PAIZ NOVALES 1334.

4. SMALL CROWD(ABOUT 200 PERSONS) HAS GATHERED IN FRONT OF MUNICIPALITY OF GUATEMALA BUILDING AWAITING PARTIAL RETURNS ANNOUNCED BY MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. SMALL CROWDS, APPARENTLY PARTY ENTHUSIASTS, HAVE ALSO GATHERED AT MLN AND DCG HEADQUARTERS. PR HEADQUARTERS QUIET.

5. UNOFFICIAL RETURNS FOR CAPITAL, PUBLISHED BY MUNICIPALITY AND REPRESENTING 25 OF 493 VOTING TABLES, SHOW RIOS MONTT WITH 3256(52 PERCENT), LAUGERUD 1811(29PERCENT), AND PAIZ NOVALES 1107(17PERCENT). THESE RETURNS ALSO SHOW OPPOSITION FRONT MAYOR CANDIDATE PONCIANO, AND INDEPENDENTS PADRE CHEMITA AND CARLOS GEHLERT MATA AS THE FRONT RUNNERS IN THE CAPITAL MAYORALITY RACE.

6. COMMENT: GOG HAS APPARENTLY FOLLOWED THROUGH ON PLAN(SEE REFTTEL) TO CLAMP DOWN ON RESULTS FROM GUATEMALA CITY(WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO FAVOR RIOS MONTT) AND PUBLICIZE RETURNS FAVORING COALITION FROM OUTLYING AREAS ON CONTROLLED MEDIA. SMALL CROWDS AT MUNICIPALITY AND AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS ARE DWINDLING AND SHOW NO SIGNS OF BECOMING UNRULY. NO CLEAR TRENDS ARE EVIDENT YET. END COMMENT.

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